FARM SHOW

PSBA had a good week at the 99th annual Pa Farm Show. It consumed most of January for myself. I’m still catching up and trying to note any changes for next year, the 100th Farm Show. Photos are up on the website http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/show.htm and a Special Edition newsletter will be coming out a little later. Some notes from the ABF Convention in Anahiem, Calif will be included with the Special Edition.

It’s not too late …

5th Natural Beekeeping Symposium -
Sunday Feb. 8, 2015 10 am to 4 pm,
Temple University, Broad St., Philadelphia PA

Due to generous sponsorships from Temple University Office of Sustainability and Whole Foods Market (Mid-Atlantic North region), we are able to offer the symposium tickets for LESS THAN LAST YEAR’S PRICE for those who register by January 31, 2015! To register, visit: http://www.eventbrite.com/e/philadelphia-beekeepers-guild-5th-annual-natural-beekeeping-symposium-tickets-10492179391?aff=eac2

The symposium will feature Ross Conrad, who is a well-respected beekeeper and author of a number of books and DVDs on natural beekeeping.

Registration opens at 9:30 am, tentative agenda follows:
10 am - noon (Ross Conrad TOPIC #1)
noon - 1 lunch and vendor browsing
1 - 2 pm Katy Ciola Evans, University of Delaware
   Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and results of her 2014 IPM study of treatment-free beekeepers; citizen science.
2 - 4 pm (Ross Conrad TOPIC #2)
4 pm raffle drawing . . . socializing/cleanup

More details about the topics will be provided as the date gets closer. Please check www.phillybeekeepers.org periodically for updates.
From Bee Culture magazine, “**Honey Definition Fails Again**”. Exerpts:

> Report to the Commissioner of the FDA

How an appropriate Federal Standard of Identity for Honey would be in the interest of Consumers, the Honey Industry, and US Agriculture.

AMS – USDA Agricultural Marketing Service – published a Federal Register notice on August 20, 2014, seeking public comment on how a Federal standard of identity for honey would be in the interest of consumers, the honey industry, and US agriculture.

Overall 76, or 89% of the 85 comments supported establishing a Federal standard in some form. Only 1 commenter stated a standard is not needed.

Generally, the favorable comments mentioned a single standard would be better than several from various states, others felt marketing practices that allowed unrestricted imports of substandard product are putting small businesses out of business, while others felt that without this protection small producers would simply fold, threatening pollination and overall US honey production.

By far the majority felt there was a need for a definition for honey, there were disparate opinions about how to frame it. Some recommended the inclusion of detailed analytical data.

Of the 85 positive comments received, 66 were from individuals,

Check Out the Latest at [www.BeeCulture.com](http://www.BeeCulture.com)

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**It’s not too late …**

The **Western PA Beekeeping Seminar**, one of the largest beekeeping seminars in the state, will be held **February 13-14** at Four Points Sheraton, Mars, PA, 16046. Feb 13 (7-9PM) and Feb 14 (8AM-4:30 PM)

Main speakers include **Jerry Hayes**, former Chief of Apiary Inspection for the Florida Department of Agriculture and author of, “Classroom” Q & A column for the American Bee Journal and **Dr. Larry Connor**, former Ohio State University Extension Entomologist, author and owner of Wicwas Press.

Registration is $50  **Deadline:** Sunday, February 8, 2015.

For more information, view the Penn State Extension, Beaver website in January:  
[http://extension.psu.edu/beaver](http://extension.psu.edu/beaver) or call 724-774-3003
PSBA at Work

In March, the Pa Apiary Advisory Board will make it’s semi-annual meeting with the Pa Dept of Agriculture. On the agenda will be lingering issues concerning Food Safety requirements that seem to have no purpose or function with bringing a safe honey to public market. These regulations can be intimidating, add high costs, cause undue concern and are stifling potential Pa honey markets.

Urban/suburban planning and zoning issues continue. The Board will continue to lobby for no or minimal zoning. If zoning is unavoidable, we are suggesting Best Management Practices as the model. Forest Hills in Pittsburgh is a good working model. The Philadelphia model of NO regulation is the showcased example. The Board also opposes additional fees added by local municipalities.

Another agenda item is promoting pollinator friendly planting and practices (no spray) along highways and utility right of ways. The Board is seeking discussion with PennDOT at this meeting, who have not sent a rep to the past meetings.

In April, PSBA is attending the annual (Pa State Association of Township Supervisors) PSATS Conference and Trade Show at Hershey Lodge. Last year, PSBA attended as a workshop presenter. The workshop was poorly attended, so this year we opted to pay an exhibitor fee where we can be visible and engaging for four days. The focus will be educating local planners to working solutions for urban/suburban beekeeping and the collective free benefits to their municipalities. The Philly, NO regulations will be a showcased model as well as the working models in the Pittsburgh townships. No additional fees will be lobbied.

For rural townships, we will promote pollinator friendly right of ways and beekeeper access to public lands.

PSBA is running a little more offense to minimize defensive situations.

Chester County Beekeepers Association (CCBA)

Michael Palmer will be one of the featured speakers at the CCBA conference this March 14th! Tom Seeley and Dewey Caron, too. We can’t wait!
More Events …

Check out the Calendar of Events on the state website. [http://pastatebeekeepers.org/events.php](http://pastatebeekeepers.org/events.php) There are more than can be published on the Waggle. Please check YOUR listings. Be sure your contact and links work. Contact [webmaster@pastatebeekeepers.org](mailto:webmaster@pastatebeekeepers.org) to make updates or corrections. The website is updated regularly, but is only as good as the information provided. Thanks…..

“Honey bees are invasive species”.

We all know that honeybees are not native. Neither are many of the foods and plants we enjoy. There seems to be a growing concern of a movement opposing honey bees since they are not “Native” Pollinators. ‘This comes from some of the very same environmental groups, entomologists, and agriculture extension personnel, whom beekeepers have fully supported for years’.

The list of benefits honeybees bring to all agriculture, a sustainable and ample food supply needs to be taught continuously. Every beekeeper can cite personal examples.

‘Beekeepers need to know the difference between programs supporting “Beneficial Pollinators, and those programs focused on “Native Bees”. Beekeepers need to support with their time and dollars, those environmental programs centered on helping the overall environment, including the honey bees’.

I would invite you to review the following articles: The first is an article from PennApic’s Mike Thomas, contributing founder of National Honey Bee Day. [http://www.nationalhoneybeeday.org/bannativepollinatorlabel.html](http://www.nationalhoneybeeday.org/bannativepollinatorlabel.html)

The second is an article referenced in the previous, which verifies this is real. [http://www.doorcountydailynews.com/news/details.cfm?clientid=28&id=159078#.VLJ8RZV0x9A](http://www.doorcountydailynews.com/news/details.cfm?clientid=28&id=159078#.VLJ8RZV0x9A)

The Waggle is not intended to be used for editorials, but rather specific activities or information that may be of interest or value, to

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